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# **BULLETIN**

OF THE

# **AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**VOLUME XIII  
MARCH-NOVEMBER, 1919**

**AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
78 E. WASHINGTON STREET  
CHICAGO  
1919**

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Entered as second-class matter December 27, 1909, at the Post Office at Chicago, Ill., under Act of Congress of July 16, 1894. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 8, 1918.

VOL 13, No. 1. [Jan., 1919, omitted.] CHICAGO, ILL.

MARCH, 1919

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### LIBRARY WAR SERVICE: THE SITUATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY

To the boneyard of discarded slogans which resulted from the close of the fighting in Europe, the library war service of the American Library Association has made its contribution. "A book for every man" was the aim of the Association in its overseas shipments while the war was in progress; the phrase has been forgotten.

The slogan has been outgrown. When the flow of American forces to European shores was at its height, the Association was not able to keep pace in the shipment of books. Now, with 400,000 men returned from France and approximately 1,600,000 still abroad, the total number of books sent overseas has passed the two-million mark. To meet the tremendous demand which

exists, it must continue to expand for some time to come.

"At least million more fiction and miscellaneous books demanded within next six months to maintain army morale," was the significant statement in a cablegram recently received at the Washington headquarters of the library war service from Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress and general director of the Association's war service, now in France to direct the work for the forces overseas. Dr. Putnam urges that everything possible be done to stimulate book and magazine donations, and declares that the need was never greater than at present.

Earlier cablegrams from Dr. Putnam and from Burton E. Stevenson, European